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INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 002964

NOFORN
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/WE AND SCA/A

EO 12958 DECL: 11/28/2018
TAGS PREL, PGOV, MARR, PTER, AF, UK
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: PRESIDENT KARZAI NOT CONFIDENT ON
ELECTIONS; CLAIMS FINANCIAL RESERVES "BEST IN WORLD"

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Greg Berry for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

1. (C/NF) Summary: During a November 25 meeting in Kabul, Afghan President Karzai told FS Miliband that it would be difficult or impossible to

2. (C/NF) According to XXXXXXXXXXXX, Miliband saw Karzai for about an hour in Kabul on November 25, with Foreign Minister Spanta, National Sec
ELECTIONS

3. (C/NF) Karzai told Miliband that it would be difficult or impossible to hold a credible Presidential election, not just in Helmand, but als
AFGHAN/U.S. RELATIONS

4. (C/NF) Karzai related to Miliband that President-elect Obama had been "very supportive, very committed8 during their telephone conversatio
GOVERNANCE/ECONOMY

5. (C/NF) Karzai told Miliband that the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) were in the course of preparing a paper which would
RECONCILIATION

6. (C/NF) Miliband commented to Karzai that, after seven years, it was important to offer a perspective on how all expected the conflict to er
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7. (C/NF) Miliband welcomed the warm relations between Karzai and Zardari, and spoke of the need to extend that relationship into other areas,
AFGHAN INTERNAL ISSUES

8. (C/NF) Miliband welcomed Interior Minister Atmar,s appointment , and said that the UK would give him "every support, " which Karzai welcome
ANA/ANP

9. (C/NF) Miliband noted recent improvements in the ANA, and the fact that the units in Helmand had reached "Capability Milestone One," but pr
POLITICAL OUTREACH

10. (C/NF) Karzai said that political outreach needed to start at village level, and extend through the district and provincial levels. Commur

11. (C/NF) Karzai emphasized that more U.S. troops were not the answer. He hoped the Americans would consult the Afghan Government before senc

12. (C/NF) Miliband ended the meeting by underlining that
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the UK public needed reassuring about the "Afghanistan project." Karzai,s own prestige in Britain meant that he was uniquely well placed to do
SOUTH WITH SPANTA

13. (C/NF) After the meeting with Karzai, Miliband and Spanta flew to Camp Bastion. During the flight Spanta emphasized to Miliband the need t
HELMAND

14. (C/NF) Miliband and Spanta carried out three engagements in Helmand: a visit to Garmsir, to review progress since its liberation from the
GARMSIR

15. (C/NF) In Garmsir, Miliband was received by the District Chief, Abdullah Jan, and gained a variety of insights into &good enough8 governar
GOVERNOR MANGAL

16. (C/NF) In Lashkar Gah, Miliband assured Mangal of continuing UK support. Mangal spoke of his many achievements, and expressed gratitude fc
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TUTTLE